WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An animal-scaring device comprising a kite configured as a predatory bird, and a manually operable reel coupled to the kite by a control line.

2. The animal-scaring device of claim 1, wherein the reel has a hub and a plurality of spaced pins extending radially outwardly from the hub and each having a C-shaped free end.

3. The animal-scaring device of claim 2, wherein the reel further has two spaced endless sides supported by the free end of the plurality of pins so that a central portion of the free end of each of the plurality of pins supports the line, the spaced endless sides being spaced radially outwards from the central portion of the free end to prevent the line from slipping off the reel.

4. An animal-scaring device configured to have a shape of a predatory bird comprising a body and a pair of wings, each of the wings being configured so that a ratio between a maximum width of the wing and a length thereof (W_1/L) ranges between about 0.4-0.6.

5. The animal-scaring device of claim 4 wherein the pair of wings is detachably coupled to the body.

6. The animal-scaring device of claim 4, wherein, the wings each have an inner side having a width W_2 and an opposite outer side having a width W_3, wherein a ratio between the widths of the inner and outer sides ranges within about a 0.7-1 interval.

7. The animal-scaring device of claim 6, wherein each wing has a leading and trailing edge, the trailing edge having an outwardly curved region located next to the inner side of the wing and the inwardly curved region located next to the outer side, the outwardly and inwardly curved regions having substantially a uniform radius of curvature.

8. The animal-scaring device of claim 7, wherein the leading edge of the wing has an outwardly curved central region flanked by two side regions.

9. The animal-scaring device of claim 8, wherein the side regions each have a radius of curvature substantially greater than a radius of curvature of the central regions.

10. The animal-scaring device of claim 8, wherein the side regions each are essentially straight.

11. The animal-scaring device of claim 4, wherein each wing has a frame including a plurality of sections formed as a one-piece body or as a plurality of detachable components.

12. The animal-scaring device of claim 4, wherein the body includes a head portion, a tail portion and a hollow frame coupled to the head and tail portions.

13. The animal-scaring device of claim 4, wherein the device is coupled to a manually operable reel by a central line.

14. The animal-scaring device of claim 13 wherein the reel has a central hub, a plurality of angularly spaced pins each provided with a respective free end, and a pair of spaced apart, endless sides attached to the free end of the plurality of pins, wherein the reel is rotatable in opposite directions to modify a length of the central line.

15. The animal-scaring device of claim 14, wherein the free end of the plurality of pins has a C-shaped cross section bridging the pair of endless sides, wherein the line is supported by a central portion of the free end of the pins.

16. The animal-scaring device of claim 15, further comprising a handle, the handle and the hub being rotatable relative to one another.

17. The animal-scaring device of claim 4, wherein each wing has an airfoil cross-section characterized by a thickness of the wing reducing from a leading edge thereof to a trailing edge.

18. A method for scaring off animals comprising the steps of launching a bird-scaring device off a stationary support and circling the bird-scaring device in opposite directions upon reaching a desired altitude.

19. The method of claim 18, wherein the launching step includes launching the bird-scaring device substantially vertically.

20. The method of claim 19, wherein the launching step further includes applying a pulling force to the bird-scaring device.

21. The method of claim 17, wherein the circling step includes rotating a reel coupled to the bird- scaring device by a control line in one direction.

22. The method of claim 20, wherein the circling step further includes periodically reversing a direction of circling by rotating the reel in a direction substantially opposite to the previous direction.